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EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

by Bobby H. Johnson

The fall meeting of the East Texas Historical Association drew an estimated 100 persons to Nacogdoches on October 12, 1974. The program put together by Capt. Charles Phillips came off magnificently, as evidenced by the warm response of the audience. Views of early Texas highlighted the first sessions, with papers by Dr. Ralph A. Wooster of Lamar University and Ronald C. Ellison of French High School. Wooster's paper was entitled "East of the Trinity: Glimpses of East Texas in the Early 1850's," while Ellison spoke on "Texas Whigs and the Gubernatorial Election of 1853."

Two interesting topics emerged from the second session. Dr. Wayne Bell of the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin discussed "Texas Architecture Mid-19th Century," complete with slides and expert commentary. Ms. Mary Pearson of Denton explained the County Records Inventory Project, a program designed to catalog the tremendous store of documents and materials available in Texas courthouses.

Dr. Marilyn M. Sibley of Houston charmed the luncheon meeting with a view of East Texas "As Others Saw It, 1860-1865." Dr. Sibley's knowledge of this subject was drawn from her extensive research and writing on early Texas. Another feature of the luncheon was the presentation of a gift and resolution honoring Ms. Mary Hendry, who served the Association as office secretary for the past two years.

A new slate of officers was chosen at the business meeting. Heading the Association as president will be Maury Darst of Galveston, who succeeds Dr. Robert S. Maxwell of Nacogdoches. Other officers are listed in the minutes, printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*.

Members are urged to remember the Spring meeting to be held on March 22, 1975, at Crockett.

Jefferson, Texas, continues to be one of the most historically-oriented communities in the country. This is evident in the full slate of activities conducted by the Marion County Historical Survey Committee and the group associated with the Excelsior House Hotel. Their "Jefferson Revisited" program last fall further displayed the historical attractions of the town. Those who missed this tour may make the annual Historical Pilgrimage May 3-5, 1975. This is an event worth the time of anyone interested in beautiful homes and Southern hospitality.

Another aspect of Jefferson's proclivity to history is the project now underway by the Junior Historians there. The group has recently acquired an old building known familiarly as the one at "61 Dallas Street." Plans call for the restoration and preservation of the historic old structure which has housed a Confederate hat factory and a saloon. Our hat is off to these dedicated young people for their efforts to preserve the relics of the past.

Last fall we received word from Miss Marion Vickers of Pensacola, Florida, concerning some maps which she had available for sale. They may be gone by now, but Miss Vickers had an 1865 Johnson's map of Texas and an 1853 United States map. Perhaps she still has them or other materials which may be of interest to our members. She may be reached by mail at 190 Talladega Trail, Pensacola, Fla., 32506.

A similar service is available through Texas State Historical Maps of San Angelo. Their promotional literature describes a full array of historical products suitable for gifts.

Their address is P. O. Drawer 3885, San Angelo, Texas 76901.

Trident Prints of New York City also offers graphic materials which may be of interest to members of the Association. A new series of "Limited Edition" historical prints is now available from the firm's office at 125 East 23rd Street in New York City. These prints, produced by designer Robert Stevenson, are silk-screened and deal with various aspects of the American past. Some 35 prints will be released over the next two years, culminating with the bicentennial celebration in 1976.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, in cooperation with the Louisiana Historical Association, has announced the creation of two awards for excellence in the writing of Louisiana history. A \$500 prize will be awarded for the best published work on a Louisiana subject. A comparative topic in which another state, or states, is used with Louisiana is acceptable. A \$200 prize will also be awarded for the best manuscript by an unpublished author on a Louisiana topic. Inquiries should be sent to:

The General L. Kemper Williams Prize Committee
c/o The Historic New Orleans Collection
533 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Members may be interested in knowing that a Texas chapter of the Travel Research Association was formed in 1974. The objective of the group is to serve as a forum and clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas on travel and travel research. The membership fee is \$5. Interested persons should address their inquiries to Ms. Barbara Kimes, Braniff International, Exchange Park, Dallas, Texas 75235.

Texas Uniques, Antiques & Art, which bills itself as "pure entertainment with a nostalgic Texas touch," is seeking subscribers, according to publisher Robert F. Alexander. It is a handsome publication dealing with a variety of topics. The April 1974 edition, for instance, carried a front page story on Jefferson, "the town that refused to die." Subscriptions are \$4 for twelve issues. The address is 2711 Cedar Springs, Dallas, Texas 75201.

The Nacogdoches County Historical Survey Committee, in collaboration with a class in "shade tree management" taught by Dr. Victor K. Bilan of the SFA School of Forestry, is sponsoring the restoration of a 200 year old oak tree growing on the only remaining Indian mound on Mound Street in Nacogdoches. Many local citizens and businesses have contributed funds and materials for the project.

The Texas Historical Commission has approved an historic landmark designation for the Millard-Lee house which was recently restored by Mrs. Lera Thomas of Nacogdoches. It is the first of her five restorations at Millard's Crossing to be so designated.

Another restoration is also underway in Nacogdoches. Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Speck, new members of the ETHA, have acquired the Judge Bennett Blake homestead and are restoring it with the expert help of Charles A. Phillips, son of Capt. and Mrs. Charles K.

Phillips. The home has been described as a "twice Victorianized double-room log structure."

The annual meeting of the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation will be held in Nacogdoches October 23-25, 1975. More details will be forthcoming at the spring meeting in Crockett.

The Monroe-Crook house in Crockett was officially reopened on November 10, 1974, after an extensive restoration. It was designated an Historic Texas Landmark in 1969. This 1854 home of a relative of President Monroe also has been placed in the National Register of Historic Places by the federal government.

ETHA members are encouraged to make known to the secretary potential topics and speakers for future meetings. They are also urged to submit news items for this section of the *Journal*. Remember that our deadlines are March 1 and October 1.

Members will be saddened to learn of the death last fall of Dr. Ben Green, the well-known veterinarian who spoke at our Spring 1972 meeting in Commerce. He was the author of *Horse Trading* and other books.

The *Journal* will run a topical issue next year which will deal with Black history in Texas. We have received a number of articles on this subject and we will make use of most of them this way. Anyone interested in submitting a manuscript on Black Texans should do so.

Larry J. Wygant, archivist of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston, writes that they have just received several important acquisitions. The descendants of John Grant Tod donated a 2000 item collection of Tod's papers which contains correspondence with Sam Houston, Anson Jones, Reuben Potter, Memucan Hunt, Albert Sidney Johnston, Peter W. Grayson, and Samuel May Williams. They have also received a collection of memorabilia of Norman Hurd. He informs us that the Rosenberg Library has received a matching grant from the ARBC that is being used to locate and copy all existing architectural drawings by Nicholas J. Clayton, well known nineteenth century Galveston architect. Anyone with knowledge of Clayton or a building designed by him is requested to contact the Rosenberg Library.

EAST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 12, 1974

Nacogdoches, Texas

Members attending: Dr. Robert S. Maxwell, Mrs. W. S. Terry, Mrs. E. H. Lasseter, Miss Eliza Bishop, Dr. Ralph A. Wooster, Dr. Claude H. Hall, Capt. Charles K. Phillips, Dr. Ralph Steen, Mr. Maury Darst, Dr. Archie P. McDonald, Mrs. Tommie Jan Lowery.

1. The minutes of the Spring Meeting - 1974 were read by the secretary and approved by the Board.

2. The current financial statement was read. Capt. Phillips made a motion that the statement be approved, Miss Bishop made the second; and the Board approved.

3. Editor's Report

Dr. McDonald stated that the *Journal* has ample material to publish the next three issues, but good articles are always needed. There are 353 *Journal* subscribers and 16 exchange members.

Letters were sent to presses interested in Texas topics offering advertising space at the rate of \$50 per page \$25 per half page. Three companies have responded, and these may have advertisements in the spring issue.

Craftsman Printers, Inc. has bid \$1166 on an 80 page *Journal* printing 600 copies. This is the lowest bid and the working relationship with the company is very good. The Board voted to accept this bid on a motion made by Miss Bishop with a second by Mr. Darst.

There has been a complaint about a review published in the *Journal* Vol. 11, No. 1. Judge John H. Wood did not like the review by Nancy Bowen of the book *Texas Coastal Bend: People and Places*. The *Journal* has offered to print a 500 word defense of the book and a rebuttal by the reviewer.

4. Mrs. Lasseter asked if it were possible to make the *Journal* type larger. If larger print were used, there would have to be a reduction in material used. Capt. Phillips moved that the *Journal* print remain the same. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Darst, and the Board approved.

5. President's Report

Dr. Maxwell reported on the success of the meeting held at the Big Thicket Museum in Saratoga. The crowd was large, the weather good, and the program and tours very informative.

6. Mrs. Lasseter asked for a report on the search for foundation funds to support the Association. Dr. Wooster reported that the Rodger's Foundation was making no commitments at present. There were no other reports.

7. Mr. Darst reminded the members that no article had been chosen from the *Journal* to receive the C. K. Chamberlain Award. A new committee, composed of Mr. Darst, as chairman, Mrs. Terry, and Dr. Hall, was appointed by the president to choose an article for the Award from Vol. 12.

8. A location for the Spring Meeting was left up to the President. At the noon luncheon Dr. Maxwell reported that the Association had been asked to meet in Crockett, on March 22, 1975.

9. The Nominating Committee composed of Dr. Allan Ashcraft, chairman, Dr. Joseph Devine, and Mrs. E. H. Lasseter presented the following slate of officers:

President - Maury Darst (Galveston)

1st Vice President - Charles K. Phillips (Nacogdoches)

2nd vice President - Claude H. Hall (Bryan)

3 years - Directors:

Frank H. Smyrl (Tyler)

Fred Tarpley (Commerce)

Lois Parker (Beaumont)

1 year

Sarah Jackson (Nacogdoches)

At the luncheon meeting the committee recommended the election of this slate, Miss Eliza Bishop seconded the motion, and the entire membership approved.

10. Dr. Maxwell asked that a resolution of appreciation be read during the luncheon meeting commending Mrs. Mary Hendry, the *Journal* office secretary for her cheerful service to the organization. The resolution was read by Dr. Calvin Hines.

Respectfully submitted,
Tommie Jan Lowery
Secretary/Treasurer

The following books were received for noting:

The American Heritage Book of Great Historic Places. Edited by Richard M. Ketchum. New York (American Heritage Publishing Company), 1973. Illustrations, index. P. 288. \$16.50

A beautiful book has come to our desk. The book describes itself best: "This magnificently illustrated volume is both a new kind of history and a guide to the historic riches that are to be seen in our own country.

Here, for the first time, is a pictorial of America in terms of the places where history was made - places that you can visit today. More than 470 pictures (126 of them in full color), with 100,000 words of narrative, put you on the scene where history actually happened, tell you the story of our national past, and guide you to the most rewarding places to visit.

The book is divided into nine geographic sections, each abundantly illustrated with rare photographs, eye-witness paintings, drawings, engravings, and sketches."

A companion volume, *An American Heritage Guide, —Great Historic Places*, lists more than 1,000 sites in America where some important historical event occurred. It covers all the areas administered by the National Park Service, including 44 National Historic Sites, 47 National Monuments, 11 National Military Parks, 10 National Cemeteries, 6 National Battlefields, and many National Historic Landmarks, State Historic Sites and Memorials, and sites operated privately, for each of the 50 states. For those planning to visit any American historic site, as part of the Bicentennial or just for the fun of it, these two volumes should prove interesting and helpful.

Recollections of Early Texas. Edited by John Holmes Jenkins, III. Foreword by J. Frank Dobie. Austin (University of Texas Press), 1958, 1973. P. 307. Biographical note, Bibliography, Illustrations, index. \$8.50.

While he was still a student at Beaumont High School, John H. Jenkins prepared a surprise for his parents - he collected and edited for publication the historical writings of his frontiersman ancestor, John Holland Jenkins. That was in 1958, and in the years following it became something of a classic for its kind of book, hence this reprinting. The book details the life of Jenkins from his birth near Demopolis, Alabama through the family migration to Texas before the revolution, the early call to manhood forced by his father's death, the loss of a step-father in the Alamo, and his own experiences in the revolutionary army and in later years in the Bastrop region. At the urging of friends and family he wrote these *Recollections* which were first published in the *Bastrop Advertiser* in 1884 and 1885. John Jenkins has become one of Texas' leading writers and publishers, but this is still his own interesting work.

Texas, A Picture Tour. Edited by Norman Kotcher. Introduction by Lon Tinkle. New York (Charles Scribner's Sons), 1973. P. 160. Illustrations. \$12.50.

Texas has inspired many different kinds of books, and here lately there have been a car-load of picture books. This is one of the best. It has a lot going for it, including an introduction by Lon Tinkle and the photographic expertise of the staff of the Texas Highway Department. Tinkle, an English professor at SMU, book reviewer for the *Dallas Morning News*, and author of several books on the state, has provided a moving piece of writing in his introduction. It is part history, part analysis of the current scene, and part braggadocio. It has much insight and a heap of heart. The illustrations, especially those in color, are beautiful. Most of them are landscapes, carrying out Tinkle's theme that it is landed space that shapes Texans more than it is the other way around. I like particularly one of his lines which seems to capture the spirit of the state: "Texas is a state to watch, it's where a good piece of the action is." You can "watch" some of it in these pages.

Legislation Messages of The Chief Executive of Texas. Edited by Price Daniel and James C. Martin. Austin (Texas State Library), 1972. Appendeses, illustrations, index. P. 149.

When the Honorable Price Daniel, Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and former U.S. Senator and Governor, began preparation for his inaugural address as the state's chief executive in 1957 he used a publication entitled *Governors' Messages, Coke to Ross* to see what others before him had said on similar occasions. Disappointed that all of Texas' governors' messages were not available in a single collection, Daniel began to prepare one. Although the pressures of an active political career have delayed the work, it is no less welcome. This is volume one, 1835-1836, of what promises to be many. Several people have assisted Daniel in the project, but Bob Bray, Mrs. Brad Smith, Dorman Wilfrey, and especially J. C. Martin, Jr., who arranged and edited the messages, are the most significant. Daniel provided biographies for the three chief executives covered in volume one, including Henry Smith, James W. Robinson, and David G. Burnet. A portrait accompanies each biography. When completed this will be a most useful collection for students of Texas history, especially those interested in political figures.

Texas Out Back. Sketches by Harry Anthony DeYoung, Text by Leon Hale. Austin (Madrona Press), 1973. P. 68. Illustrations. \$4.75.

Since most contemporary Texans are not more than two generations removed from rural roots, it is unlikely that anyone who sees this little book will have trouble identifying with its pencil drawings of outhouses. The outhouse, or privy, was an essential part of living for generations of Texans (and others), and in its own way was evidence of civilization. Thomas Crapper flushed away its singular utilization when he invented the chain pull water closet, but he couldn't eliminate it entirely from the landscape. Many still remain, despite the octopus-like sewage lines that stretch now to rural areas adjacent to

urban centers, and the septic tank disposal method. DeYoung, a well known Chicago and San Antonio artist in the 1930s, liked to sketch these out-back johns for reasons he took to his grave in 1956. Leon Hale suggests his motivation was a strong sense of humor, because he says there is just something funny about these structures. Hale continues to be the only writer in the southwest who can make you laugh with the printed word. His stories of outhouses tickles your memories of past experiences, and DeYoung's sketches leave a bitter-sweet reverie of days gone by.

A Child's History of Texas Coloring Book. Text and Drawings by Sarah Jackson and Mary Ann Patterson. Quanah (Nortex Press), 1974. P. 80. \$2.00.

Sarah Jackson's earlier coloring book on Nacogdoches history was a success. It was an interesting, fun, painless way to teach Nacogdoches youngsters about the history of their community, which just happens to be one of the truly historic towns of the state. Now Ms. Jackson has expanded her scope and provided a larger book which deals with a lot more geography and will serve a larger audience. The entire history of Texas is presented here, beginning with Indians and running through space men and the Astrodome. Every important event in the state's past save your birthday is included. The text is accurate and adequate to interest, but not too long for the juvenile. The line drawings suggest subjects being discussed but leave room for creative coloring or embellishment by the young readers. To order, write Nortex at box 120, Quanah, Texas 79252. And, if we could have got ahold of some crayolas, we could of done a better job of noting this book.